

plan under this original bill would have made them a superior early retirement benefit and caused others to want to follow. So I really don't want to say anything bad about the State Patrol. I want to say something good about the good work that they do, and the bill minus this provision that Senator Schellpeper would strike would still be an excellent step up for the Patrol and more reasonably fit into the principles of our retirement plan and also fit in with the other plans that we have. Getting back to Senator Nelson, I voted against the Nelson amendment because I understand that that provision, a four-year wait on marriage before you can get the benefits, is unusual. Other plans don't have it and so it is not fair that the Patrol would have to wait while others don't for that kind of benefit, and that is what I look for, conformity, fairness, equity, and if you have it, it is kind of hard to argue against. So I would support the Schellpeper amendment. It will save a great deal of cost, and I think be the fair thing to do.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, followed by Senators Pirsch and Elmer.

SENATOR NELSON: As I say, I am much more comfortable with this proposal the way the Schellpeper amendment. I still, I guess I almost have to faint at the amount of the annuity, but if the body is comfortable with that, I guess...I do have to question Senator Schellpeper, and I know where he got it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Schellpeper, and I had a lobbyist tell me this a few minutes ago, but he says if the actuaries say something I like to hear, fine. If they say something I don't like to hear, then I don't like to quote it. My experience on the teachers' retirement and the same thing here that actuarially when any plan is not set up actuarially and is increased like this, then you become an unfunded liability, which is the case there. This may be actuarially with \$8 million there now, but with increased benefits, as I read to you from LB 252, that is probably only going to last for a couple of years, so do you have any comment on that? I know you were told actuarially that I don't need an A bill now, but, again, eventually with increased benefits, a half a percent, it has to be, and the survivors' benefits, there has to be